

The trash! We have trashcans everywhere and no one uses them!
– Eric from the Mid-Atlantic region

The conditions of the team area, officials' locker room, and team locker rooms. The conditions these areas are left in shows their lack of respect for the facility and the people who work there. One example would be, no one should be cleaning their cleats off by banging them against the walls leaving dimples in the wall and mud all over the place.

– Chris from Northeast

We host many events put on by our city that owns our ballpark. They are a great municipality to work with my only problem is that the teams/coaches/players have little or no respect for the facility. They act like they have never played on a field before. They walk across manicured infields, run over clean mounds, stretch and throw from exactly the same place every time (normally the foul lines), they trash the dugouts, batting cages, and surrounding areas. Have a little class and at least act like it is a privilege to play on a first class playing surface; act like you have a clue!

– Chris from the Atlantic Coast

After soccer games, the players unwrap the tape that was on their socks and shoes and just leave it on the field or sidelines along with other trash. The coaches don't hold the teams responsible. We are understaffed already, but now we have to clean up after the teams and coaches. We are there for the athletes, but at some point, they have to help the cause and take responsibility.

I have heard of some high school teams that go out and seed and fix divots after games. That would never happen where I am at, because the coaches and players take everything for granted. Players and coaches just don't understand what goes into making a field safe, playable, and looking good at the same time. There should be a conference for coaches that explains what we do everyday to give them some insight on our work. Maybe then, they would take that extra step and help out.

– Dustin from the Midwest

Cleaning up after the crowd, even when there were garbage cans everywhere.

– Rick from "Monsters of the Midway"

The biggest thing that leads to frustration for me (in this situation) is the lack of people's understanding in regards to how much

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FACILITY & OPERATIONS

abuse a field can take from use. Whether it is a string of several events in close together, additional events (such as homecoming festivities) that bring a lot of extra people onto the field, or how the weather is greatly impacts and/or change how the field can be used.

Depending on the current circumstances, what many people would consider a normal use of the field can be very destructive to the field, whether it be several events in a row, playing/practicing on a field when it is too wet, or having too many events on a field that in a recovery stage [from disease, drought, other problem]. To go hand-in-hand with that, many of these people struggle to understand the process of "bringing a field back" to top shape after it has damaged under these circumstances. A lot of times it is not easy to be able to convey all of these details to all of the individuals involved.

- Andrew from the Midwest

It has to be peanut shells and sunflower seeds on the warning track. I know it sounds petty but it drives us crazy getting them picked up.

- Nick from New England

Generally, coaches that do not take responsibility to have their teams clean up litter around their bench areas. It is not always

possible for our staff to get to these areas between every game. Therefore, a new team coming in may get a poor impression of the facilities and have less respect themselves.

- Keith from New England

The thing that drives me nuts is the trash that they leave at the players bench. I have a soccer facility and the players take the tape off their socks and throw it on the ground. They don't care if there is a game behind them so I try to get over there and clean it up a little before the next match.

- Dick from the Rocky Mountains

Our coaches leave a bigger mess for us to pick up.

- Jim from the Midwest

Everyone in baseball knows what an "on-deck" mat is but they never use it for its intended purpose.


- Joe from the Southwest

No one knows how to use trash cans!

- Mark from the Mid-Atlantic ■

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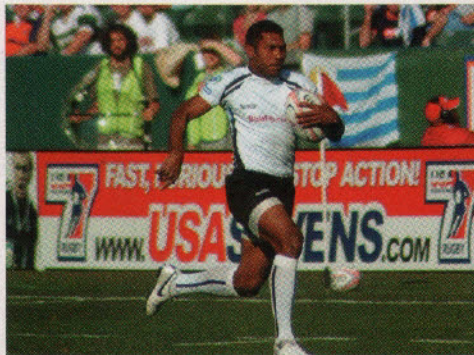
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Busy Waters handles SEVENS rugby



Rob Wagner, Dropkick Photos

Kyle Waters is director of sports turf and grounds at the Home Depot Center complex in Carson, CA. In between soccer matches and video shoots, Waters hosted the USA Sevens rugby tournament in February, which saw 44 games involving 240 athletes over 2 days.

Did you do anything differently to prepare for the tournament?

Waters: There was really nothing we did special for rugby other than green out the soccer lines 3 days before the matches started. We had a soccer match on the Wednesday before, followed by a 3-day soccer commercial shoot starting the Tuesday after the SEVENS. So in a matter of 5 days we went from soccer to rugby then back to soccer.

How did you get it all done?

Waters: We lined for soccer on Wednesday afternoon before the match. Then on Thursday, Kevin, Ben, Phillip and Jesus painted all the soccer lines green; measured out a rugby field and lined it. Then we installed the field posts for rugby, took down the soccer goals and painted the rugby logo on the center of the field.

You mentioned that you really never experience an off season. What is your

normal, if there is a normal, maintenance schedule to keep your turf healthy and looking good?

Waters: Here at the Home Depot Center we really don't have an off season that might occur for a one-sport stadium. If we aren't hosting soccer, rugby, football, tennis, track, or lacrosse then it's a concert, X-games or film shoot.

There is no such thing as normal maintenance and never will be because the schedule changes so often. I basically plan month to month and sometimes that is even hard. We stick to a very intense foliar program on the stadium using Floratine products and basic granular fertilization on the outer practice fields. We aerify all the fields at least 1-2 times per month and in a normal year plan on replacing the middle of each field once time with sod from all the traffic.

What's the craziest special event you've been involved in, and why was it so crazy?

Waters: The craziest event was having the San Diego Chargers, X-Games, J.P Morgan Tennis tournament and US Cycling all within the same week. We were responsible for keeping the Charger's 5 practice fields painted and mowed. This included coordinating moving out of 8,000 yards of

dirt from inside the soccer stadium, installing 150 irrigation heads, and resodding of 130,000 square feet of sod for the soccer match in 4 days. All that while also maintaining the plants on Center Court and in the Velodrome for cycling.

We could only move dirt out during hours that didn't affect the tennis players or the football operations, so most of that was done late at night and early morning. My crew was split up and for almost a week I didn't see some of the guys because I was working inside the stadium and they were maintaining the football fields and the other five soccer fields. We made it through the events but only due to the proper planning and the guys on the crew putting the facility and events first. Fifteen to eighteen hour days during that time were not uncommon.

We played a soccer match Saturday night, thanks to the help of Kurt Kitchens of JPD hauling out the dirt from the X-games course Sunday and Monday; Bill Barkshire laser leveling the field starting at 2 AM Tuesday; Neal Beeson of Sports Turf Facility Management and Matt Hart of Rain Bird helping reinstall the irrigation heads; Tom Stafford of West Coast Turf and his crew installing sod all day and night Wednesday and Thursday; and the HDC crew sanding seams and rolling the turf after installation! ■



Roser going out on top

Steve Roser and his Sportscore II soccer complex have won the 2005 STMA High School/Parks & Recreation Soccer Field of the Year. Roser has spent 35 years as the sports turf manager at the complex in Rockford, IL and retires next spring, leaving a legacy of safe playing fields for thousands of young people.

SportsTurf: Do you plan any adjustments, large or small, to your maintenance plan in 2006? Did you purchase or plan to

purchase any new equipment or product for this year?

Steve Roser: We are purchasing two new field painters. We demo'd a Toro 1200 and the crew liked it. We have more than 60 fields to paint each week and they really liked the pull-behind cart to stand on. We also are picking up a couple of EZ-GO work carts and hopefully a new Kifco.

Our maintenance plan should be pretty close to last season except we should be breaking ground our 6-8 new tournament fields on some land we purchased last year.

We could use more rainfall. Last season we experienced our worst drought in 30 years. We'll spend more time at Sportscore I ball diamonds because we picked up some national tournaments this year. We also picked up the 2008 Region II soccer championships, which will be our 4th time in the past 14 years.

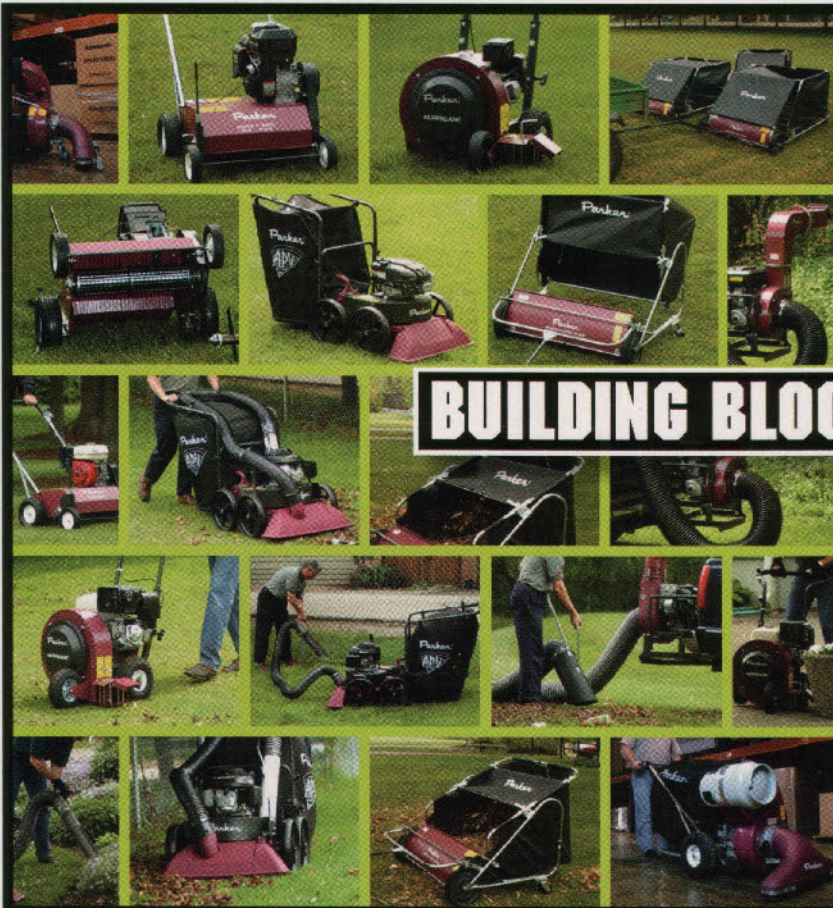
I'm retiring next spring after 37 and a half years, all but one of them in sportsturf. I hope to keep working part-time, maybe moving south to warmer weather, and staying involved in STMA.

ST: What are your keys to communicating with users of your fields?

Roser: Since I am onsite so often during the season, usually 6-7 days a week and many evenings, I often see our users and coaches. I see them as well at our indoor complex during indoor training. We meet with all soccer groups before the season and send a newsletter as well.

ST: Any advice for a turf manager who is preparing his or her soccer fields for a tournament?

Roser: We run tournaments every weekend from mid-April through mid-October and have been for 15 years. We've become really good at it. We aim to have everything ready by Thursday afternoon for a weekend tournament. That leaves Friday to move the goals, check the nets, flag the fields, setting up for parking, security and concessions and so on.



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Maintenance Program

December

Close outdoor facilities; perform preventive maintenance on equipment; assist with indoor events; remove snow; inventory for new season's supplies.

January

Continue preventive maintenance and assisting indoors; remove snow; order new season's supplies.

February

Continue preventive maintenance and assisting indoors; remove snow.

March

Continue preventive maintenance and assisting indoors; begin outside work weathering permitting; move to shop and prepare for season; begin laying out fields and painting; work on bleachers, benches, goals.

April

Set up bleachers, benches, goals, etc.; fertilize all fields 0-0-50 green grade; fertilize sand fields 11-52-0 map; mow as needed; turn on irrigation; start crabgrass control.

May

Broadleaf control; fertilize all fields 15-1-10, 50% organic, 50% nutralene; fertilize sand fields 11-52-0 map; mow 2X week; double-slice fields with 6-in. knives.

June

Second crabgrass control as needed; double aerify all fields, follow with a top-dressing of Turface or Pro's Choice; mow 2X week; late in the month, preventive grub control.

July

Move and adjust all fields for fall season; renovate weak areas, seed, sod, and lots of irrigation; mowing.

August

Continue renovations; fertilize all fields 15-1-10, 50% organic, 50% nutralene; double-slice fields early in the month with 6-in. knives; start aggressive overseeding program.

September

Fertilize all fields 0-0-50 green grade; fertilize sand fields 11-52-0 map; continue overseeding; double aerify early in the month, follow with Turface or Pro's Choice.

October

Fertilize all fields 20-5-20, 50% SCU, slow one-release N/SOP; fertilize sand fields 11-52-0 map; aerify fields late in the month; close fields as needed and start renovation work.

November

Shut down irrigation; continue renovating as able; dormant seeding as needed; fertilize all fields 21-0-0-4 ammonium; store all benches, bleachers, goals, etc.; put fields to bed for winter; begin work on next year's budget.

Main assistant is Tom Edell

We don't mow on Fridays unless it rains. The crew really appreciates this, the senior citizens who mow get 3-day weekends, and the younger guys who work weekends get Fridays off as well.

During tournaments I assign one soccer supervisor per six fields. He or she remains in their zone during the games, picking up, checking nets & flags, cleaning, etc. The supervisors also contact EMTs if necessary by radio. We always have a roamer during larger tournaments who gives breaks and empties garbage cans. This guy needs to be a troubleshooter.

As the last game of the day begins, I gather a garbage crew to pick up everywhere before we can go home. Doing it then gives everyone a chance to sleep in a little and be ready to go the next morning. This does mean long, 14-15 hour days but everyone likes it because it means more money.

The biggest challenge in tournament preparation is switching field sizes between tournaments of different age groups. We use several colors of paint, white, orange, blue, and yellow. Most often, tournament prep begins Monday morning when we measure new field dimensions. Sometimes we paint



I would like to see turf managers and officials' groups work together and try to make it a rule that officials switch diagonals at half time. We're all interested in good fields, not just the turf managers.








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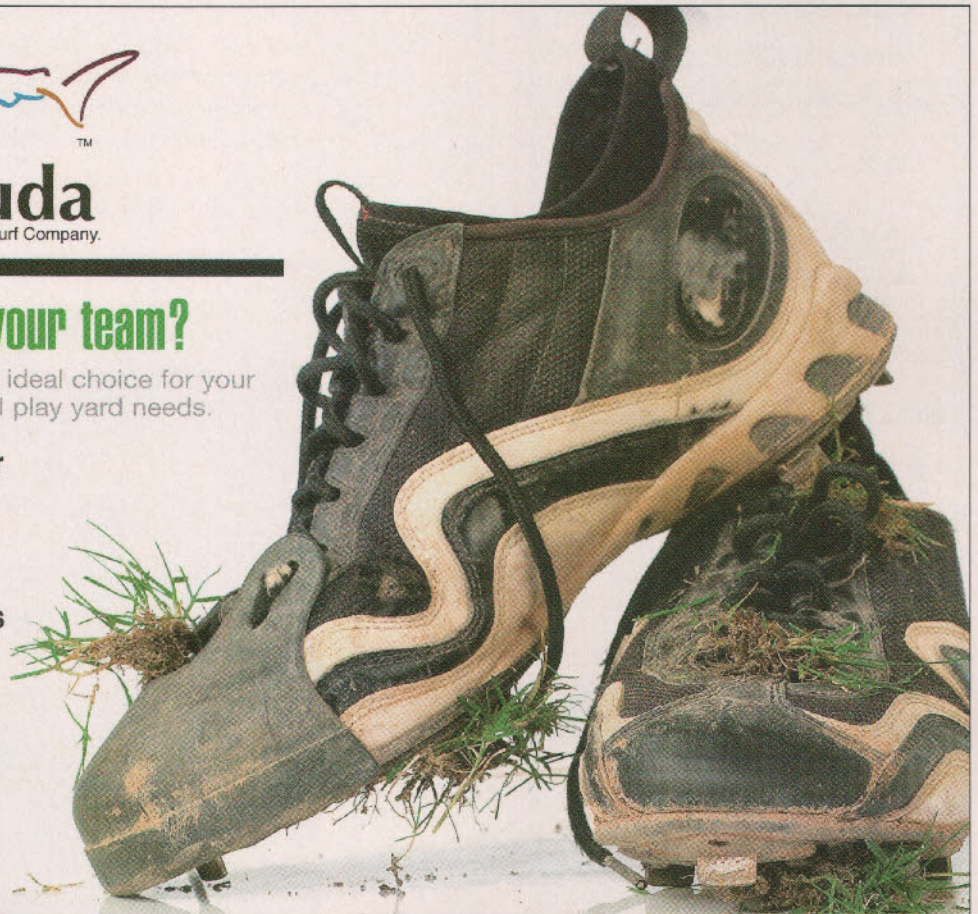
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FIELD OF THE YEAR

the fields twice a week; the regular fields white for league play, and smaller fields inside the white with another color.

ST: What's the greatest pleasure you derive from your job? What's the biggest headache?

Roser: As with any turf manager, my biggest headache can be the weather, or should I say the wrong weather at the wrong time. Getting a heavy rain the night before or during an all-day tournament on a weekend is tough. We can and have cancelled league play and practice but for tournaments it's much harder to do. One day or one weekend of play like that can destroy weeks or even months of hard work and it sets you back.

The referee lines are a problem. Almost every week we narrow or widen our fields; we use six different widths. Two-man crews did not create a problem but the three-man system does. Several times we've had success

with officials switching diagonals every other game when the fields were wet, but it is a real chore.

I would like to see turf managers and officials' groups work together and try to make it a rule that officials switch diagonals at half time. We're all interested in good fields, not just the turf managers.

I have many pleasures at my job. Seeing kids of all ages, boys and girls, playing on nice fields is great. I still love planning my week over a fresh cup of coffee, early in the morning. Working outside every day, cooking out with crew for lunch.

Probably my greatest treasure of 35 years was working with my staff. I have worked with hundreds of young men and women since 1971 and I've seen so many of them go on to be successful. When they stop by and see me they usually thank me for helping them prepare for the workforce. They remember the 60-hour weeks, working 30 days in a row at the Sportscores. ■



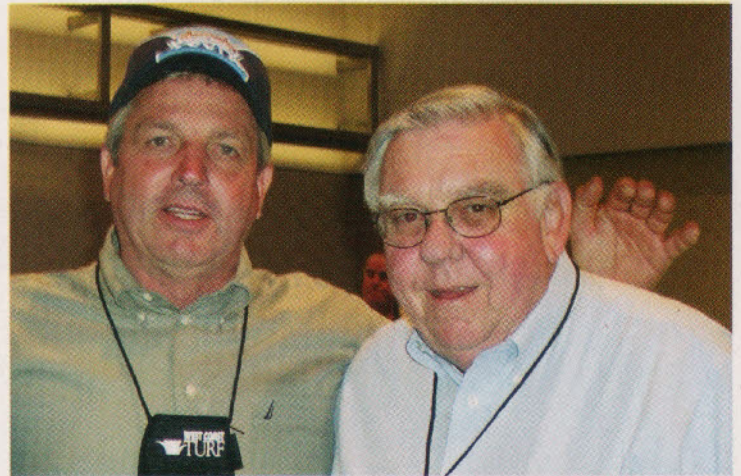
Remembering a Friend and Mentor

By Mike Schiller, CSFM

On Saturday morning February 18, 2006 the turf industry lost a good friend, innovator, teacher and leader, and I lost a mentor. After a brief but very courageous battle against cancer, Dr. Kent Worthington Kurtz left this life for his eternal reward.

Kent W. Kurtz was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a teacher, a pack rat, a delegator, and friend. He was also the first real Executive secretary of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Kent was born in 1940, in Evanston, IL to Melvin and Elsie (nee Worthington) Kurtz. He grew up in Arlington Heights and Davis, IL and was the brother of Kerry Kurtz. Kent was married to Patricia Ann O'Hara, who passed away in 1991, with whom he had two children, Heather (Ford), and Todd. Almost 13 years ago he was married to Marilyn (Sands/Filbeck) Kurtz and they resided in Arcadia, CA while Doc still taught at Cal Poly Pomona. He was the heart and soul of the ornamentals and turf program there for 36 years.



Dr. Kent Kurtz, right, poses with Jon Hubbs, president of Stabilizer Solutions, Inc., at the 2005 STMA Conference

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